



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

April 17, 2008

Governor Jim Doyle
State Capitol
P.O. Box 7863
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Governor Doyle:

We write today to respectfully request that you call the Wisconsin State Legislature into Special Session to address violent crime reduction.

In November, 2007, a 15 year old member of the Latin Kings was charged with attempted homicide in the shooting of two Milwaukee Police Officers. Over a recent 10-day period, 3 Milwaukee Police Officers were confronted by individuals carrying illegal guns. Fortunately, there was no loss of life.

This past weekend, a young man with a handgun opened fire into a neighborhood grocery store.

How many more children will be at either end of a gun? How many more officers will be shot at? How many more funerals will there be in Milwaukee before action is taken to strengthen the sentences for felons and others who think little of using, carrying or selling illegal guns to terrorize our residents?

We ask to work with you in framing the following issues for the Special Session:

- (1) Minimum Mandatory sentencing for felons and individuals with prior criminal records who are in possession of a weapon.
- (2) Increased sentencing enhancers on crimes committed with firearms.
- (3) Mandatory background checks on all sales of handguns.
- (4) Adoption of micro-stamping technology legislation.
- (5) Funding for Community Prosecutors, Drug Prosecutors and Violent Crime Prosecutors in the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office.

- (6) Transfer of the state's authority to collect the 911 emergency surcharge within the City of Milwaukee to the City of Milwaukee for emergency first responders.

Two of the issues, background checks and funding for the anticipated loss of prosecutors, were addressed last session in legislation drafted by Senator Coggs and Senator Sullivan, respectfully. We will also be soliciting input from members of the Milwaukee legislative delegation for other ways to address violent crime in our community during this Special Session.

It is clear to us that gang members, felons and others who unwisely choose to engage in violent crimes are not getting the message about consequences. It's time to toughen the message and to fund the prosecutors and police so that the message is enforced.

We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Mayor Tom Barrett
City of Milwaukee



D.A. John Chisholm
Milwaukee County District Attorney



Chief Edward Flynn
Milwaukee Police Department

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c: Senator Russell Decker, Senate Majority Leader
Representative Michael Huebsch, Speaker of the Assembly
Milwaukee Legislative Delegation
Milwaukee Common Council